Periscope.

Rivista di Patologia Nervose e Mentale.

(1902. Vol. vii, fasc. 3. March.)

1. Pathology of the Cells of the Sensory Ganglia. E. LUGARO.
2. Contribution to the Study of Parkinson's Disease. P. GONZALES and P. PINI.

1. A Continued Article.

2. *Parkinson's Disease.*—One of the numerous theories as to the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease has arisen in the widely-accepted belief that the condition does not belong to the neuroses; and there is much in favor of the hypothesis that the affection is due to some anatomical lesion of the nervous system, probably the brain. Gonzales and Pini report a case of epilepsy dating from early childhood in which convulsions gradually diminished in frequency and finally disappeared about the forty-fourth year; only to be succeeded a few years later by the gradual development of paralysis agitans. The authors advance some suggestive arguments pointing to the possible origin of the last-named condition in those influences which, acting upon the motor zone, had given rise to the epileptic seizures and so modified that area as to render it a favorable site for the development of Parkinson's disease.

R. L. FIELDING (New York).

Archives de Neurologie.

(1902. Vol. xiii, No. 76, April.)

1. Theory of Obsession. F. L. ARNAUD.

1. *Theory of Obsession.*—The author calls attention to the occurrence of obsession in the normal, as illustrated by the obstinate intrusion upon the mind of a phrase, a strain of music, etc., the banishment of which requires strong effort of the will. Morbid obsession is discussed from the intellectual and emotional standpoint, the author concluding that both intellect and emotion play an important rôle; but back of both, and antedating obsession, is the condition of abulia, the former being considered above all a disease of the will.

R. L. FIELDING (New York).

Monatsschrift für Psychiatrie and Neurologie.

(1902. Vol. xi, No. 2, February.)

1. Experimental Studies on the Effect of Mental Work on the Urinary Excretions. MAINZER.
2. The Condition of the Spinal Cord in Pulmonary Tuberculosis of the Insane. RANSOHOFF.
3. The Microscopical Findings in the Case "Gorstelle." LIEPMAN and STORCH.
4. On Exhaustion Psychoses. RAECKE.

1. *Experimental Studies on the Effect of Mental Work on the Urinary Excretions.*—In a series of experiments upon himself the author found that the excretion of organic phosphorus was diminished to a mere trace after severe mental exercise. A comparison of the work with the rest period showed the nitrogen excretion in the former was 14 per cent. of the entire excretion as compared to 6 per cent. for the

rest period. The nitrogen curve was an excellent index of the exhaustion and repair processes. Observation on several neurasthenics and similar depressive states in the mild psychoses showed that sleep was of a light character during which the nitrogenous products were slowly and incompletely eliminated. Sleep was lightest in the late hours and waking in such cases was a prolonged process.

2. *The Condition of the Spinal Cord in Pulmonary Tuberculosis of the Insane.*—The microscopical examination of the spinal cord in nine cases of tuberculosis gave Ranshoff the following conclusions: (1) The white substance of the spinal cord, especially in the long tracts, frequently suffers injury in pulmonary tuberculosis. In the beginning such changes are only manifest by application of the Marchi method of staining, later in the entire decay of medullated fibers and replacement by glia overgrowth. (2) Those cases are especially predisposed which run a rapid course, notably those of so-called mixed infection. (3) The degenerative process is especially marked in the posterior columns of the cervical and the pyramidal tracts in the upper dorsal region. The extramedullary roots are never involved. (4) Edema of the spinal cord is not a rare conditioin in phthisical cases, but is independent of the former degenerative changes.

3. *The Microscopical Findings in the Case "Gorstelle."*—Liepman and Storch conducted the microscopical examination on the case of apoplexy shown fifteen months ago by Wernicke at a medical society at Breslau, as a case of "pure subcortical aphasia." The patient was a man 69 years old, who presented his unique aphasic symptoms after a stroke of apoplexy in 1898. A second attack which occurred 15 months later caused death. The autopsy, performed 40 hours after death presented a large blood cyst extending over the entire left hemisphere; the corona radiata of this side was entirely destroyed by the hemorrhage. A secondary degeneration of the tapetum was found in the right temporo-sphenoidal lobes which was the result of the original lesion in the corona radiata and the tapetal region of the left side was found entirely destroyed in the secondary and fatal hemorrhage. Notwithstanding the evidence is not conclusive, the authors conclude that the case proves the lesion for word deafness or "subcortical sensory aphasia of Lichtheim," at least in this case, a unilateral subcortical destructive one, affecting the integrity of the tapetum.

4. *On Exhaustion Psychoses.*—Raecke presents in conclusion carefully detailed clinical histories of ten cases of mental diseases induced in individuals by bodily and mental exhaustion in which the hereditary element was at the minimum. The mental symptoms were of the delirious type; the patients presented for the most part non-systematized delusions of persecutions and also hallucinations of the same general character. The author believes that such cases of mental disturbance may not be isolated from the severe disorders of the insanities proper; and while he thinks such a type of mental disease deserves a more definite name than "exhaustion psychosis," he fails to suggest a better one.

5. To be abstracted at conclusion of article in next month's number.

L. PIERCE CLARK, (New York).

Neurologisches Centralblatt.

(1902. March 1. No. 5.)

1. Pathological Anatomy of Tetany of Gastric Origin. N. G. J. ROSSOLIMO.
2. A New Tetanic-like Affection of Chronic Lead Poisoning. HANS HAENEL.
3. Staining Nervous Tissues with Magenta Red. P. ZOSIA.